Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A compactor tooth for use on a cylindrical exterior surface of a landfill-compactor wheel, said compactor tooth comprising:

a mounting block adapted to be secured to the cylindrical exterior surface of said wheel and having a mounting surface configured for mating contact with said cylindrical exterior surface, a top surface remote from said cylindrical exterior surface, a pair of circumferentially spaced sides, and a pair of axially spaced sides, said circumferentially spaced sides being oriented not more than 5 degrees from perpendicular to said cylindrical exterior surface of said wheel, at least one of said circumferentially spaced sides has a retainer pocket being positioned therein, said retainer pocket defining a bore; and

a replaceable tip having a body with an exterior ground-engaging surface, a mounting end and a mounting-base receiving cavity opening through said mounting end, said cavity being configured to receive said mounting block thereinto and having a bottom surface disposed for abutting engagement with said top surface of said mounting block, a pair of circumferentially spaced side surfaces and a pair of axially spaced side surfaces, said circumferentially spaced side surfaces being oriented and configured to be in close abutting relationship to a respective one of said circumferentially spaced sides of said mounting block.

2. The compactor tooth of claim 1 wherein said mounting end of said tip is constructed so as not to contact the cylindrical exterior surface of said wheel when said tip is mounted upon said mounting block.

3. The compactor tooth of claim 2 wherein said retainer pocket in at least one of said axially spaced sides of said mounting block has a bottom surface lying along a first plane, said at least one side further having a

pair of edge surfaces on opposite sides of said retainer pocket and lying along a second-intermediate plane spaced outboard of said first plane, and a generally radially oriented tongue portion having an outer surface disposed along a third-outer plane spaced outboard of said second plane.

4. The compactor tooth of claim 3 wherein said tongue portion is disposed adjacent said retainer pocket and wherein said bore of said retainer pocket defines a concave surface generally facing said cylindrical exterior surface of said wheel extends along said tongue portion and into said retainer pocket.

5. The compactor tooth of claim 4 wherein at least one of said axially spaced side surfaces of said cavity of the tip includes a pair of circumferentially spaced apart ribs defining a generally radially oriented groove therebetween with a pair of opposed side surfaces and a transverse surface, said transverse surface being positionable in close abutting relation to said outer surface of said tongue portion.

6. The compactor tooth of claim 5 wherein said tip further includes an annular through-hole located within said groove and alignable with said retainer pocket in said mounting block and with said concave surface on said tongue portion.

7. The compactor tooth of claim 6 wherein said tongue portion has a pair of opposite circumferentially spaced sides spaced a predetermined distance apart and wherein said bore of said retainer pocket has a predetermined diameter, said bore extending radially outward at a distance greater than said predetermined distance so as to be disposed outboard of a respective one of said sides of said tongue portion, and wherein said opposed side

surfaces of said ribs are disposed in close abutting relationship to a respective one of spaced sides of said tongue portion.

8. The compactor tooth of claim 1 including a retainer for selectively retaining said tip to said mounting block.

9. The compactor tooth of claim 8 wherein said retainer includes a barrel member adapted for engagement with said mounting block to prevent the rotation of said barrel member upon the application of a retaining force thereto.

10. The compactor tooth of claim 9 wherein said barrel member includes a threaded portion and wherein said retainer includes a fastening member having a threaded stud portion on one end thereof and a tool socket in the other end thereof, and said fastening member is adapted to be threadably engageable with said threaded portion of said barrel member.

11. The compactor tooth of claim 10 wherein said barrel member includes a tapered socket and wherein said fastening member includes a tapered portion that lockingly engages said tapered socket in said barrel member.

12. The compactor tooth of claim 10 wherein said barrel member includes an alignment configuration for engaging a mating configuration in said retainer pocket of said mounting base.

13. The compactor tooth of claim 12 wherein said barrel member includes a pair of spaced surfaces positioned on a second end thereof that align with a pair of opposite circumferentially spaced sides on the tongue portion.

14. A retainer for detachably retaining a tip onto a mounting block on a compactor wheel, comprising:

a cylindrical barrel member of a predetermined diameter, said barrel member being disposed about a central axis and having opposite ends with a first end having a threaded bore therein; and

a separate fastening member having a cylindrical head portion and a threaded stud portion, said stud portion being adapted for threaded engagement with said threaded bore of said barrel member for detachably mounting said fastener member to said barrel member.

15. The retainer of claim 14, wherein and said barrel member includes an alignment configuration base portion having at least two radially extending arms extending radially beyond the diameter of said barrel member when said stud portion is mounted in said threaded bore.

16. The retainer of claim 14, wherein said fastener member includes a tapered portion that blendingly connects the threaded portion to the cylindrical head portion.

17. The retainer of claim 15, wherein said barrel member includes a tapered socket that receives the tapered portion of said fastening member.

18. The retainer of claim 14, wherein said fastening member having a tool receiving socket in said cylindrical head portion, said tool receiving socket is adapted for receipt of a tool for rotating said fastening member relative to said barrel member.